

**ONLINE TABLE 1:** Characteristics of trials as reported in published journal articles. Values are numbers with percentages unless otherwise specified. IQR, inter quartile range

<sup>†</sup> Categorization was based on information from protocol – same as in TABLE 1.

\* New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Journal of the American Medical Association, British Medical Journal, Annals of Internal Medicine, Circulation, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Blood, American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Paediatrics, Annals of Neurology, Annals of Surgery

Characteristics	Subgroup analyses		All N=515
	269 publications did not report	246 publications reported	
<b>Sample size</b>			
Median (IQR)	176 (68, 452)	572 (245, 1253)	347 (106, 800)
<b>Centre status</b>			
Multi centre	217 (80.7)	229 (93.1)	446 (86.6)
Single centre	44 (16.4)	12 (4.9)	56 (10.9)
Unclear	8 (3.0)	5 (2.0)	13 (2.5)
<b>Study design</b>			
Parallel	250 (92.9)	232 (94.3)	483 (93.6)
Cross-over	16 (5.9)	7 (2.8)	23 (4.5)
Factorial	2 (0.7)	6 (2.4)	8 (1.6)
Other	1 (0.4)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.4)
<b>Study intention</b>			
Superiority	192 (71.4)	197 (80.1)	389 (75.5)
Non-inferiority	44 (16.4)	40 (16.3)	84 (16.3)
Unclear	33 (12.3)	9 (3.7)	42 (8.2)
<b>Unit of randomization</b>			
Individuals	262 (97.4)	245 (99.6)	507 (98.4)
Clusters	6 (2.2)	1 (0.4)	7 (1.4)
Body parts	1 (0.4)	0 (0)	1 (0.2)
<b>Sponsorship <sup>†</sup></b>			
Non-industry	99 (36.8)	86 (35.0)	185 (35.9)
Industry	170 (63.2)	160 (65.0)	330 (64.1)
<b>High impact journal <sup>*</sup></b>			
Yes	52 (19.3)	115 (46.7)	167 (32.4)
No	217 (80.7)	131 (53.3)	348 (67.6)
<b>Clinical field</b>			
Oncology	41 (15.2)	52 (21.1)	93 (18.2)

Cardiovascular	24 (8.9)	51 (20.7)	75 (14.6)
Infectious disease	18 (6.7)	19 (7.7)	37 (7.2)
Neurology	17 (6.3)	18 (7.3)	35 (6.8)
Endocrinology	18 (6.7)	11 (4.5)	29 (5.6)
Other	151 (56.1)	95 (38.6)	246 (47.8)
<b>Results of primary endpoint statistically significant</b>			
Yes	127 (47.2)	122 (49.6)	249 (48.3)
No	101 (37.5)	116 (47.2)	217 (42.1)
No primary endpoint reported	41 (15.2)	8 (3.3)	49 (9.5)